

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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INR-10 PA-01 HA-05 /064 W
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R 161053Z JUN 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7305
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, RP
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE REACTION TO NEW YORK PHILIPPINE
- CENTER INCIDENT

REF: MANILA 10074

1. SUMMARY: ALL NEWSPAPERS JUNE 16 FRONT-PAGED REPORTS OF NEW YORK CONSULATE PERMANENT MISSION INCIDENT. TWO PAPERS INSERTED EMBASSY STATEMENT THAT APOLOGY BEING PREPARED. FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO VOICED HIS INDIGNATION OVER THE INCIDENT AND REPORTEDLY PROMISED TO CONTINUE "FUROR" UNTIL US TAKES APPROPRIATE STEPS. TWO PAPERS CARRIED HASTILY WRITTEN EDITORIALS ACCUSING US OF HYPOCRISY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS ANTICIPATED, ALL THREE MAJOR MORNING DAILIES JUNE 16
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GAVE BANNER HEADLINE TREATMENT TO REPORTS OF POLICE INCIDENT AT PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL AND PERMANENT MISSION NEW YORK. STORIES WERE WRITTEN BY MALACANANG REPORTERS OR BASED ON MALACANANG BRIEFING. "TIMES JOURNAL" AND "DAILY EXPRESS" CARRY INSERTS REPORTING EMBASSY STATEMENT THAT US GOVERNMENT REGRETS THE INCIDENT AND IS PREPARING A FORMAL APOLOGY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO, CURRENTLY IN THAILAND FOR ASEAN CONFERENCE, REPORTED ON "VOICE OF THE PHILIPPINES" BROADCAST ON JUNE 16 HIS INDIGNATION OVER THE INCIDENT. QUOTE: I AM SHOCKED BEYOND WORDS BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT I BELIEVE AN ASSAULT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WHERE WE ARE TOLD THAT HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE CONSIDERED AS SOMETHING OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD AND FOR A BUILDING LIKE THE PHILIPPINE CENTER TO BE VIOLATED WITHOUT ANY SEARCH WARRANT AND WITH OUR EMPLOYEES THERE TORTURED BY THE NEW YORK POLICE, I WONDER WHAT KIND OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS IT THAT IS BEING TOUTED AND BEING PROCLAIMED AS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE RESPECTED BY EVERYBODY. THAT OUR EMPLOYEES WERE HANDCUFFED AND BEATEN BY AMERICAN POLICEMEN WITH ABSOLUTELY NO RIGHT TO ENTER THE PHILIPPINE CENTER ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS A VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY IT IS A (INAUDIBLE) INVASION OF THE RIGHTS OF PRIVACY BY OFFICERS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE PROTECTORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD BE REFERRED TO MISS PAT DERIAN, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WHO CAME TO THE PHILIPPINES AND WAS ARROGANTLY TELLING US WHAT TO DO AND SPEAKING OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS IF SHE WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW WHAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE. I WISH WE COULD TAKE THIS MATTER UP TO SHOW HER THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SOMETHING THAT ARE NOT INVOLVED ONLY WHEN PEOPLES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ARE MADE TO BELIEVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THAT IS A POLICY THAT SHOULD BE RESPECTED. WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PHILIPPINE CENTER IS SOMETHING THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES CANNOT OVERLOOK. IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE DENOUNCE AS A GROSS VIOLATION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK CITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND DONE BY AMERICAN POLICEMEN WHO DON'T SEEM TO KNOW WHAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE. IT IS MISS DERIAN WHO SHOULD TELL THEM WHAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE AND SHE SHOULD NOT COME TO THE PHILIPPINES TO TEACH US HUMAN RIGHTS BECAUSE IT IS IN NEW YORK WHERE SHE SHOULD BE, WHERE SHE SHOULD GIVE LECTURES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I AM INDIGNANT ABOUT THIS AND OUR PEOPLE SHOULD SHOW THEIR INDIGNATION UNLESS THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION AND CARRY OUT WHAT WE HAVE STATED IN OUR PROTEST TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND TO THE CITY AUTHORITIES OF NEW YORK. THIS IS ALL THAT I WANT TO SAY NOW, BUT I WILL SAY MORE UNLESS SOME ACTION IS TAKEN IMMEDIATELY BY THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. END QUOTE.

4. "DAILY EXPRESS" AND "TIMES JOURNAL" CARRIED VITUPERIOUS EDITORIALS ON THE INCIDENT. "TIMES JOURNAL" ALSO RAN EDITORIAL CARTOON SHOWING STATUE OF LIBERTY SMASHING HER

TORCH ONTO "PHILIPPINE CENTER" WHILE GUNTOTING POLICEMAN
APPLAUDS FROM HER SHOULDER.

5. EXCERPTS FROM "TIMES JOURNAL" "HUMAN RIGHTS." BEGIN
QUOTE: THE EMPTINESS OF MR. CARTER'S CRUSADE ON HUMAN
RIGHTS IS PROBABLY BEST EXEMPLIFIED BY THE ASSAULT BY
FOUR NEW YORK CITY POLICEMEN ON THE PHILIPPINE CENTER LAST
SUNDAY....THE AMERICAN PROFESSION OF DEEP CONCERN FOR
LIBERTY, DECENCY AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN VALUES HAS CAST A
SPELL ON MANY OF OUR COUNTRYMEN, SOME OF WHOM HAVE EVEN

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TURNED THEIR BACKS ON THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT AND COUNTRY AND
HAVE LEFT AS POLITICAL EXPATRIATES....ALL TOO OFTEN THEIR
DREAMS AND HOPES HAVE CRUMBLLED BEFORE THE HARSH REALITIES
OF "STATESIDE" LIFE....THESE ILLUSIONS WERE TO BE
SHATTERED BY FOUR RUFFIANS WHO BROKE INTO THE CENTER WITH-
OUT ANY SEARCH WARRANT, AND GESTAPO STYLE WITH GUNS ON THE
READY, MAULED HELPLESS FILIPINOS INSIDE THE COMPLEX THAT
ALSO HOUSES THE PHILIPPINE MISSION....WHAT IS IRONIC ABOUT
THE WHOLE INCIDENT IS THAT MANY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
LEADERS HAVE OPENLY FROWNED ON THE PHILIPPINE CRISIS GOVER-
NMENT, THEIR BIAS NO DOUBT BEING INFLUENCED BY A FEW
DISGRUNTLED ANTI-MARCOS POLITICIANS IN THE US AND BY THE
SLANTED REPORTING OF THE WESTERN PRESS ON THE PHILIPPINE

SITUATION. THERE IS NO DENYING THAT MR. CARTER HIMSELF HAS BROADLY HINTED THAT HE DESIRES TO SEE THE PHILIPPINES ABIDE BY HIS BRAND OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IF THE NEW YORK INCIDENT IS NOT A CLEAR CASE OF GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RIGHTS, WE SUGGEST THAT CARTER DO HIS HOMEWORK FIRST BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO PREACH TO OTHERS. END QUOTE.

6. EXCERPTS FROM "DAILY EXPRESS" "THE MR. HYDE OF US PSYCHE." BEGIN QUOTE: AS OF THIS WRITING, THE MOTIVE IS STILL UNKNOWN AS TO WHY THE PHILIPPINE CENTER IN NEW YORK, WHICH HOUSES THE CONSULATE AND MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, BOTH DIPLOMATIC OFFICES, WAS LITERALLY PUT TO A SEIGE BY NEW YORK POLICEMEN WHO MAULED TWO FILIPINO EMPLOYEES IN THE PROCESS. BUT IF ONLY FOR THE HIGH-HANDEDNESS AND APPARENT DISDAIN FOR FILIPINOS WHICH THE AMERICAN POLICEMEN DISPLAYED, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS MUCH TO EXPLAIN, AND APOLOGIZE FOR, NOT TO THE PHILIPPINES ALONE, BUT TO THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AS WELLTHE UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK ON THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE BORE THE FEATURES OF A GESTAPO ATTACK....FOR A COUNTRY FOISTING ITSELF TO THE WORLD AS THE BASTION OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND THE GLOBAL DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE UNITED STATES--OR AT THE VERY LEAST, SOME OF HER CITIZENS--CERTAINLY FINDS ITSELF IN A MOST EMBARRASSING POSITION. MORE THAN THIS, THE INCIDENT HAS FURTHER CONFIRMED THE CHASM BETWEEN AMERICAN PRONOUNCEMENTS AND MORALIZING AND THE HARSH WORLD OF REALITY....THE NEW YORK INCIDENT BARES TOO THE HYPOCRISY OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, THE BASIS OF WHICH IS POLITICAL EXIGENCY AND CERTAINLY NEITHER RESPECT NOR JUSTICE....THE MR. HYDE OF AMERICAN PSYCHE HAS STRUCK AGAIN, THIS TIME AT THE EXPENSE OF PHILIPPINE HONOR AND INTERNATIONAL RESPECT. ADMITTEDLY A SMALL AND WEAKER NATION, THE PHILIPPINES NEVERTHELESS SHOULD NOT REST TILL THIS HUMILIATION AND INJUSTICE IS VINDICATED. AN APOLOGY IS IMPERATIVE. END QUOTE.

6. WE EXPECT COLUMNISTS TO RAKE US OVER COALS FOR THE NEXT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEW DAYS. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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